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**From:** David Dube <chiro624@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 15, 2013 8:44 AM  
**To:** AppropriationTestimony  
**Subject:** Fwd: Governor's Budget Cuts Threaten DRC Funding!  
**Attachments:** DRCFC General Brochure.pdf; Restore CIL Funding.PDF

I have just received this distraughtful letter in regards to DRC centers in CT!

Unlike those of you who are non- disabled we appear as just blips on your radar screen. Someone that will not notice budget cuts and not influence anyone to change the cuts the Govenor's scar tatics wishes.

Yes that is what they are, scar tatics so as to make the powers that be to jump and make more cuts and more taxing to stop the bleeding in this state! It does not work and never will work. Each and every cut and/or tax effects someone or something down the road to the point of the legislators wonder "why does these measures not working"?

Remember when the then Govenor in the 80's cut spending for mental health centers and other health care let the communities take care of these themselves.? People were saying then, that this will cause more problems down the road. Well no one was listening then and now we have more people living on the streets, others not getting the proper medications. Over time community centers have opened to help with the situation, which at the time the then gov. was alluding to.

So now some of the funding for these same centers that were opened, to help those that the cuts directly effected at the time in the 80's as a result of the short sightedness is now again going under the axe!  
Who will these cuts effect now and what effect does this have 5 years from now? We never look ahead 10-20 yrs from our cuts and taxes!

That one measure, way back in 80's, of cutting state funding on certain mental health and other health care functions is now being directly impacted once again on the community services that were intended to help mental health and disability when the cuts were started. Go figure.

So we are revisiting the same situation once again. This measure that was imployed in the 80's is now going to effect the very thing that the state wanted back then! To have communities take care of the welfare of some of the disabled whether mental or physical. But this time it will not only stop but dismantel what was so hard to acheive.

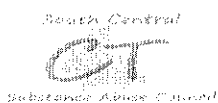
What little monies we get from the state has and will help those who are in need!

Don't just look at the dollar! Please look at what that dollar will do!

Sometimes i really beleive the Gov.t either state or national is not intouch with the people. They trully forget what those tax cuts do to those they effect!

I wonder, if the government was handling your monies how would you feel about that...

Give money for a fish and he has food for a day...Show him how to fish and he has food for life!



## Connecticut Prevention Network

Local partnerships promoting wellness by addressing substance abuse statewide.

### What is the Connecticut Prevention Network

The Connecticut Prevention Network (CPN) is an association of the state's 13 community partnership Regional Action Councils (RACs) that work to provide your community with education, training and advocacy for substance abuse prevention.

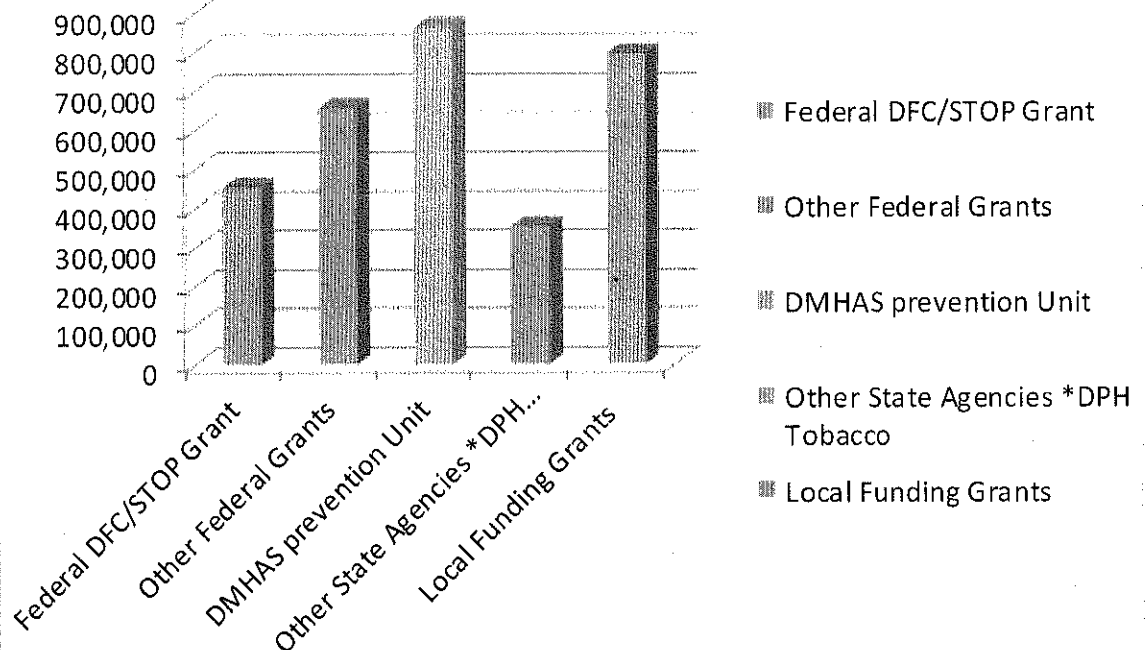
### What We Do

- Provide your community with education, training, and advocacy for substance abuse prevention
- Inventory community resources to address substance abuse problems
- Identify gaps in services and changes to community environments
- Design/develop/implement programs to fill identified gaps in services
- Reduce the negative effects of substance abuse and related risky behaviors on youth and the community

### How We Do It

- Mobilize government leaders, mental health/substance abuse professionals, law enforcement, schools, faith organizations and youth
- Advocate for wellness and health promotion across all 169 cities and towns
- Tailor prevention strategies to meet each community's specific needs

2011-2012 RAC Funding



What have you done today?

Sincerely,

David N Dube R.N.,D.C.,M.S

P.S. I AM ALSO DISABLED AND DRC OF FFLD COUNTY SAVED MY LIFE....

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Joe Eckert**

Date: Thursday, February 14, 2013

Subject: Governor's Budget Cuts Threaten DRC Funding!

To: "[jeckert@drcfc.org](mailto:jeckert@drcfc.org)" <[jeckert@drcfc.org](mailto:jeckert@drcfc.org)>

FEBRUARY 14, 2013

FRIENDS OF THE DISABILITY RESOURCE CENTER:

AS YOU MAY KNOW, THE GOVERNOR'S PROPOSED BUDGET ELIMINATES ENTIRELY STATE FUNDS FOR CENTERS FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING! THE POTENTIAL HARM TO OUR CENTER'S CONSUMERS IS CATASTROPHIC (POSSIBLY ELIMINATING 2-3 STAFF WHO PROVIDE NEEDED SERVICES)!

I AM ASKING YOU TO EMAIL THE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE BEFORE ITS HEARING ON FEBRUARY 22ND, ASKING FOR FUNDS RESTORATION; ALONG WITH THIS NOTE, I AM ENCLOSING INFORMATION THAT MAY BE HELPFUL TO YOU, PARTICULARLY AS DESCRIPTORS OF CENTER ACHIEVEMENTS. PLEASE ADD THE ENCLOSED FLIER AND DRC BROCHURE AS AN ATTACHMENT.

THE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE WILL ACCEPT ELECTRONIC TESTIMONY VIA EMAIL AT:  
[appropriationtestimo@cga.ct.gov](mailto:appropriationtestimo@cga.ct.gov)

PLEASE SEND YOUR EMAIL BY THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2013.

I WANT TO THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP.

TONY LACAVA  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

ENCLOSURES: 2

## Accomplishments

- Provided individual services to 288 consumers over the last reporting year and information and referral services to 1828 people, in addition to 2860 website hits.
- With the Greater Bridgeport Disability Advocates Group, successfully advocated for the reestablishment of the Commission for People with Disabilities to the City of Bridgeport.
- Successfully transitioned 12 people from nursing homes into the community in 2012 through The Money Follows the Person program (MFP).



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Stratford, CT 06615  
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# Disability Resource Center

of Fairfield County, Inc.



Assisting people with disabilities reach their goals of community inclusion through the empowerment based services of information and referral, peer support, advocacy, employment services, and more.

The Disability Resource Center of Fairfield County, or DRCFC, is a non-profit organization dedicated to serving individuals with disabilities in the Fairfield County communities of Stratford, Bridgeport, Darien, Easton, Fairfield, Greenwich, Monroe, New Canaan, Norwalk, Stamford, Trumbull, Weston, Westport and Wilton.

DRCFC is one of the state's five Centers for Independent Living, or CILs, and has operated since 1986 when the Center separated from Goodwill Industries of Western Connecticut. In 1995, the Center moved to its present location at 80 Ferry Boulevard, Stratford, where it has served the disabled community ever since.

### Individual Services

**Information & Referral:** DRCFC can assist individuals in identifying and accessing services and supports, benefits, assistive technology, housing, personal assistance services, and other resources.

**Independent Living Skills Training:** DRCFC provides training in activities of daily living and the skills necessary for integration and full participation in the community for people with disabilities.

**Peer Support:** DRCFC's peer counselors provide support to people with disabilities by drawing on their own life experience with disability.

**Advocacy:** DRCFC assists consumers in making their voice heard, and advocates for supports and services needed for consumers to maximize their own independence.

**Youth Transition Program:** The Youth Transition Program serves Stratford consumers ages 16 to 21 with any disability they feel significantly impairs them from full inclusion within the community.

**New England Assistive Technology (NEAT):** The New England Assistive Technology (NEAT) satellite office at DRCFC accepts donations of used durable medical equipment such as wheelchairs, walkers, canes and more. Donations are refurbished, then are sold to consumers at a discounted price.

**Aging & Disability Resource Center (ADRC):** The Aging & Disability Resource Center (ADRC) helps people of all ages, incomes and disabilities to get information on the full range of long-term support options.

**Ticket to Work Program:** The Ticket to Work Program is a federal program through the Social Security Administration which assists consumers receiving cash benefits through SSI/SSDI in returning to work and gaining the skills they need to be successful.

**Money Follows the Person (MFP):** The Money Follows the Person (MFP) Program provides consumers in nursing homes with assistance finding the services and supports they need to live independently within the community.

### Community Services

**Disability Awareness:** DRCFC provides specialized disability awareness and sensitivity programs to the public, schools, etc.

**Systems Advocacy:** DRCFC and its members work to effect change in society through advocacy for laws and change that removes barriers to people with disabilities.

**Technical Assistance, Training & Resourcing:** DRCFC assists government and the private sector with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), accessibility, and technical assistance.

**The Governor's Budget eliminates all state funding (\$528,680)  
for CT's Independent Living Centers**

**PLEASE Restore the Centers' funding**


**Independent Living Centers...**

- provide services to 1100 people with ALL types of physical, cognitive & mental health disabilities, of ALL ages & to ALL areas of the state, annually
- provide a single point of entry into disability services, transition from nursing homes, skill development in employment, housing, education & transportation, in addition to our core services of peer counseling, independent living skills, advocacy and information & referral
- are staffed by people with disabilities
- educate & empower people with disabilities to achieve their goals of self-sufficiency & autonomy, which results in state SAVINGS through reduced reliance on state or federal entitlement programs

**If Independent Living Centers are eliminated from the state budget...**

- hundreds of people with disabilities will be unable to access services from the centers
- centers will lose the necessary funding that subsidizes cost-saving programs - most notably Money Follows the Person, which saved approximately \$4.4M last year
- many people with disabilities will lose their jobs at the centers
- one or more centers may be forced out of business leaving areas of the state without cost-effective independent living services

 **Save Independent Living Centers**

 **Save State Funds**

## **CONNECTICUT'S INDEPENDENT LIVING CENTERS**

### **Greater New Haven:**

Center for Disability Rights (CDR)  
764 A Campbell Avenue  
West Haven, CT 06516  
203-934-7077 (V); fax 203-934-7078; 203-934-7079 (TDD)  
[info@cdr-ct.org](mailto:info@cdr-ct.org)  
Marc Anthony Gallucci, Executive Director ([marcanthony@cdr-ct.org](mailto:marcanthony@cdr-ct.org))

### **Eastern CT:**

Disabilities Network of Eastern Connecticut (DNEC)  
19 Ohio Avenue  
Norwich, CT 06360  
860-823-1898 (V); fax 860-886-2316  
[hdunn@dnec.org](mailto:hdunn@dnec.org)  
Cathy Ferry, Executive Director ([ferrycathy@yahoo.com](mailto:ferrycathy@yahoo.com))

### **Southwestern CT/Fairfield County:**

Disability Resource Center of Fairfield County (DRCFC)  
80 Ferry Boulevard, Suite 210  
Stratford, CT 06615  
203-378-6977 (V); fax 203-375-2748; 203-378-3248 (TDD)  
[info@drcfc.org](mailto:info@drcfc.org)  
Anthony LaCava, Jr., Executive Director ([tlacava@drcfc.org](mailto:tlacava@drcfc.org))

### **Northwestern CT:**

Independence Northwest (IN)  
1183 New Haven Road, Suite 200  
Naugatuck, CT 06770  
203-729-3299 (V); fax 203-729-2839; Video Phone 203-490-0358  
[info@independencenorthwest.org](mailto:info@independencenorthwest.org)  
Eileen Healy, Executive Director ([eileen.healy@independencenorthwest.org](mailto:eileen.healy@independencenorthwest.org))

### **Greater Hartford/North Central CT:**

Independence Unlimited (IU)  
151 New Park Avenue, Suite D  
Hartford, CT 06106  
860-523-5021 (V); TDD & fax 860-523-5603  
[contactus@independenceunlimited.org](mailto:contactus@independenceunlimited.org)  
Candace Low, Executive Director ([clow@independenceunlimited.org](mailto:clow@independenceunlimited.org))